Reviewer’s report

Title: The effects of economic development and built environment on diabetes in China

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Reviewer: Xiaolei Tang

Reviewer’s report:

1. The authors use the China National Nutrition and Health Survey 2002 (CNNHS 2002) which collects the data from all 31 provinces. However, it is well known that the China Health and Nutrition Survey (http://www.cpc.unc.edu/projects/china) provides more up-to-date data (currently updated to 2011). So a natural question to ask is, why not use the updated data from China Health and Nutrition Survey if they are consistent surveys? Or, if they are not consistent surveys, what are the merits of CNNHS 2002?

2. The authors compare the results from different surveys in different years in China. Such comparison needs a prerequisite that the samples from different surveys are randomly collected and representative. The authors should emphasize this assumption in the manuscript.

3. The China National Nutrition and Health Survey 2002 used multi-level cluster sampling to select individuals who are nested in 132 counties and again within 31 provinces in China. The authors ignore the multi-level structure of data in the regression. The multi-stage regression or cluster effect should also be considered in the analysis.

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